the CHITIMACHA NEWSLETTER

June 1996

CONTENTS

Chairman's Notes .. 2

"Kop's Korner"..... 3

"Kop's Korner" cont. & Human Ser. &.... 4

Scholarship Program News..... 5

Chitimacha Development Corp....6

Fire Department & Recreation.....7

Election Notice.....8

Education Highlights Continuation Page ...9

Gentle Reminders & Other Items.....10

Bulletin Board..... 11

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Ted M. Darden

SPECIAL CONSULTANT
Allan VonWerder

"SOVEREIGN NATION OF THE CHITIMACHA"

Pictured l to r: Chelsey Adams, Pamela Thibodeaux, Darlene Toups, Rita Toups and Carrie McCoy. Not shown is Elaine Higgins who was also at the ceremony.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION
By: Diane M. Hearn

Chitimacha G.E.D. Graduates

On Tuesday, May 21, 1996, at 7:30 P.M., graduation ceremonies were held at Franklin Senior High School for the G.E.D. graduates of the St. Mary Parish School Board, through which our Chitimacha G.E.D. Program is accredited. Ten Chitimacha Adult Education students were recognized for achieving their G.E.D. this school year. Chairman Ralph C. Darden presented the diplomas to the Chitimacha graduates who participated in the graduation ceremonies.

A very special **CONGRATULATIONS** goes to **DARLENE TOUPS** who made the **HIGHEST SCORE** on the G.E.D. exam of all the 227 members of the graduating class!! This is quite an accomplishment and we are very proud of you, Darlene!! We are also very proud of the accomplishments of all of our graduates and wish them much success in their futures! Listed below are the Chitimacha students who received their G.E.D. this year:

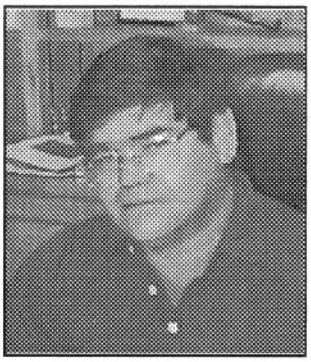
Chelsey Adams	Pamela Thibodeaux	Darlene Toups	Rita Toups
Carrie McCoy	Elaine Higgins	Gwenae Darden	Leroy Hurst
Nerry Moneaux	Jonathan Dugas		

CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!

These students took that first step and succeeded! If you are interested in obtaining a G.E.D., the real possibility exists for you here on the Reservation. Classes will begin again next fall and the teacher, Yvonne Cormier, plans to be back. G.E.D. classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria. The Tribe is offering this opportunity to you free of charge if you are Chitimacha. There is a nominal charge if you are a non-Indian spouse of a Chitimacha. If you are interested in registering for the fall, please contact Ardith Soprano, Continuing Education Coordinator, at the Health Building (923-7000). If you are already registered, but need to become active again, please feel free to do that in the fall when classes start again. You **CAN DO** it! Go for it!

(Education Highlights continues on Page 9)

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE



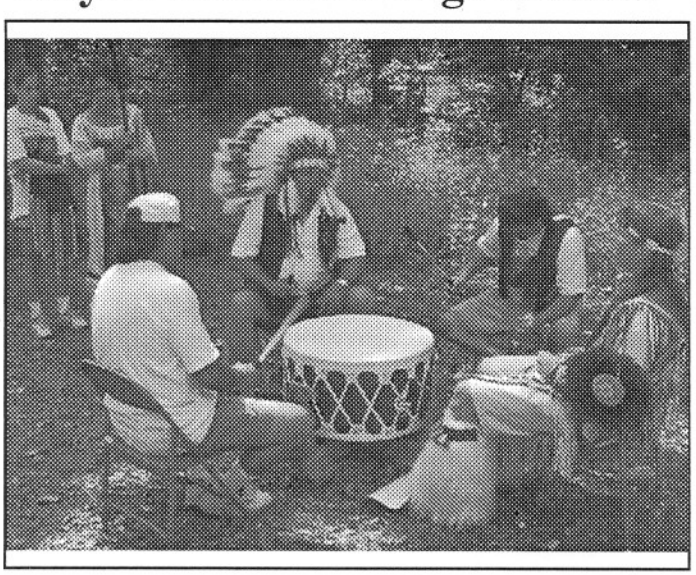
If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please address them to:

Ralph C. Darden, Chairman
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
P. O. Box 661
Charenton, LA 70523

Dear Tribal Members:

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our graduates this year. I don't want to steal the thunder from the Education Department, but this year included the most graduates we've ever had. The guest speaker, Howard Rainer, a Taos Pueblo, Creek from New Mexico, was probably the most motivational speaker I've heard. Prior to the beginning of the next school year, we will have him back to speak to all of the high school students and if some college students can make it also, I would encourage you to come and join in. Once again, congratulations to all of the elementary, high school, G.E.D. , and college graduates of 1996. You are living proof that the Chitimacha Tribe makes education a priority for a brighter future.

Bayou Sorrel Heritage Festival



Drummers, L to R: Joseph "Joe-Joe" Newman, Ralph C. Darden, Alton D. LeBlanc, Jr. and Jules Darden

On Saturday May 25th, a group of people from the community went to Bayou Sorrel to participate in their Heritage Festival. The purpose of the festival was to generate funds to protect and maintain a Chitimacha burial mound located there. The festival was a one-day activity that went so well that they plan to make it an annual event.

Strategic Planning

The Tribal Council has completed the strategic planning process that we began in April of this year. An update on this will be presented at the General meeting on June 8th. Upon completion of the process, we thought it would be nice to prepare a mission statement for the Tribe but I think it goes a little deeper than that. It sort of goes like the Preamble to the United States Constitution.

"We the people of the Sovereign Nation of the Chitimacha, in order to proclaim and perpetuate our vision, hereby embrace these beliefs:

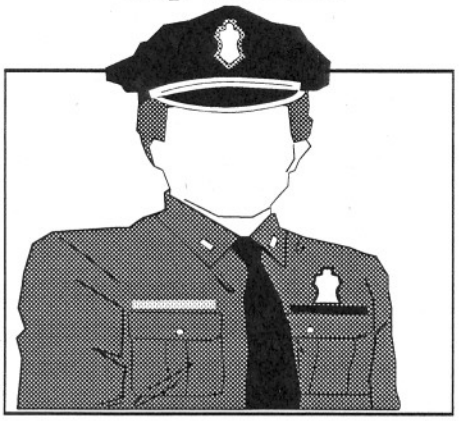
We must preserve and protect our natural resources, our people and all Native Americans.

We must promote a harmonious existence among ourselves and within our community.

We must maintain the highest level of integrity, honor and authenticity in all our endeavors and that we must always exist as a Nation by preserving our cultural heritage."

See you at the General Meeting and at Appreciation Day.

Kop's Korner"



News from the Chitimacha P.D.
Frank McCloskey, Police Chief

MAY 1996

To date, for the month of May 1996, the department issued six traffic citations for speeding, expired inspection sticker, driving under suspension and expired driver's license.No arrests were logged.

On May 1, 1996, The First Baptist Church of Franklin held a Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Law enforcement employees from the Chitimacha Police Department, Franklin Police Department, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office and some members from the State Police were honored in a very special way. Pastor Bobby Hines Sr. and members of the church prepared a "drop in" breakfast, from 5 to 7 a.m., for personnel going and coming off of duty. At 7 p.m. personnel, along with their immediate families attended an appreciation supper. At 8 p.m. a special recognition service was held and all personnel from the above named departments were presented with a certificate of appreciation. Pastor Hines thanked all the law enforcement personnel for the services they provide to the community and hoped that this day will serve as an encouragement for a job well done. Our thanks and everlasting gratitude to Pastor Bobby Hines and members of The First Baptist Church of Franklin for honoring law enforcement in this special way.

Our thanks to Mr. Steve Nugent and 4-H members of the Chitimacha Day School for the plaque of appreciation that was accepted by Officer Tammy Clements, at the awards ceremony on May 14, 1996. We are glad to help out whenever we can. Keep up the good work!

TRAINING

From April 15 to April 19, TAC Officer Sara LaBiche attended a 40-Hour Telecommunicator Training Program. The program was developed to answer a need for within the Public Safety community--a need to provide the telecommunicators who staff our emergency telephones and radios with a standardized training curriculum that addresses basic skills required for the job. Those in attendance visited the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, The Lafayette Police Department and the Lafayette E-911 Office to observe and learn how their systems operate. At the end of the course, all students were required to take an exam and Sara, answering all questions correctly, scored the highest in the class.

On April 29 and 30, Chief McCloskey attended a seminar by The Falmouth Institute, in Albuquerque, NM, on Identifying, Reporting, Investigating and Prosecuting Child Abuse in Indian Country.

On May 13, Officer Mike Pontiff attended an Explosives and Clandestine Devices Familiarization Seminar. The 8 hour course, hosted by the Monroe Police Department, familiarized officers with the types of explosives and clandestine devices that are being encountered by law enforcement officers during their day to day duties.

From May 14 to 16, Officers Mike Pontiff and Clayton Arnold attended an Officer Survival Shooting School, hosted by the Monroe Police Department. The class focused on survival marksmanship, moving and shooting, multiple targets and survival loading for handguns and shotguns.

From May 15 to 18, Chief McCloskey and Officer Blaise Smith observed interrogations using the Certified Voice Stress Analysis equipment at the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C.

On May 20 and 21, Officer Blaise Smith and Dispatcher Rosie Bertrand attended a seminar, in Lafayette, on

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

"Kop"s Korner"

intervention, interview and investigative techniques on child sexual abuse.

SAFE AND SOBER CAMPAIGN

Once again, this summer, The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission will provide funds to the police department to support overtime enforcement patrols during the 1996 Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day weekends.

Memorial Day is the first big travel holiday of the summer and law enforcement agencies across the state will be stepping up enforcement efforts to make sure that more motorists reach their destination safely. **"Buckle Up or Feel The Heat"** is the message for this holiday travel period.

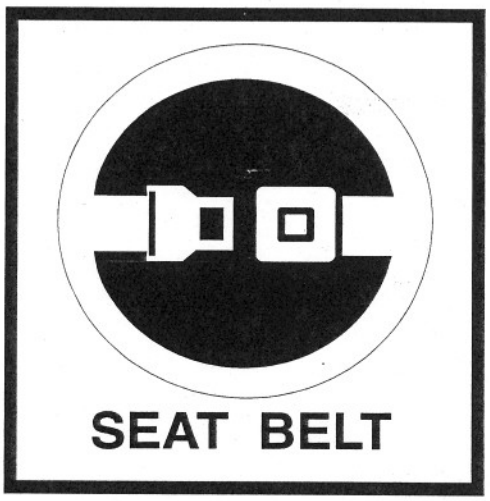
State safety officials report good news as the holiday weekend begins. According to a recent interim survey, safety belt use in Louisiana continues to increase significantly. Safety belt use in the state is now reported to be approximately 67%, a 34% increase over 1994 belt use rates. Of particular note is the higher number of high school and college-age young people observed wearing their safety belts. Since almost half of the young people killed in crashes in the state are ejected from their vehicle, increased safety belt use by this age group is particularly important.

Local and state law enforcement officers are hoping that increased traffic patrols will help make the summer of 1996 a safe one for travel in the state. One hundred agencies in the state are taking part in "Campaign Safe and Sober", an on-going enforcement effort sponsored by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission and the Louisiana Safety Belt Use Coalition.

The Campaign will last from 6:00 pm on Friday, May 24 until 12:00 midnight on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

BUCKLE UP AND DRIVE CAREFULLY

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!



Human Services Department
By: Lois Rider, Director

We would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer. Hopefully we will be able to have some activities for the young people to participate in during the summer. We do not have anything long term planned as of now, but we are planning some fun and educational activities. June 6 we will be taking twenty-five of our fifth through eighth graders to Lafayette to tour the Federal Court building and observe a federal trial in progress. They will visit the Federal Judge, Judge Rebeccah Doherty, and meet with the Federal Marshals and Bailiffs. We also have a leadership camp scheduled for our youth in conjunction with the Coushatta and Tunica/Biloxi Tribes. We have twenty-one (21) young people signed up to attend. It is being held at the Mary Hill Camp near Alexandria June 10-12. The Drug Free Schools Coordinator for the Lake Charles area is conducting the training.

We had a good visit from an FBI agent and a US Attorney who went to the school and spoke with the Kindergarten through Eighth grades about contacting them in cases of abuse. The young people enjoyed the visit and had a lot of excellent questions for them. We reminded the young people that even though school will be out the rest of us will still be working and available if they need us at any time.

Reminder to the adults of our community: Our children are our future and we will only get from them what we put in them. It is up to us to mold them in to responsible productive adults.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NEWS
BY: Ardith Soprano, Continuing Education Coordinator

The Scholarship Committee met on May 6, 1996 to determine Summer 1996 Awards. The Committee has approved the Summer Awards on a conditional basis. Recipients are reminded that award checks can not be issued until grade reports have been submitted and reviewed for Program compliance, and until all outstanding Community Service hours have been completed. If you have hours remaining, please contact this office to discuss service activities and schedules.

For those Program participants who elected not to attend Summer school, you must complete your outstanding service hours prior to the Fall Semester. Persons failing to complete their hours will not be funded until services hours are complete. Also, if you had been funded by this Program, but are no longer attending school, you will be required to complete any outstanding hours that you may have.

If you have not received a letter explaining this issue, it will be arriving soon. Should you have questions concerning this matter, you may feel free to contact me at (318) 923-7000.

SCHOLARSHIP EDUCATION PROMOTION DAY!

" U' CIC HIA' NAYA "
"WE GIVE IT AWAY!"

Once again I would like to invite all of you to the Scholarship Program's " Education Day". Our Scholarship students are required to provide payback services to the Tribe. The service hours are based on the level of funding received.

Our students have been working on various projects and are ready to present these projects to you at our Education Promotion Day. Although many of the projects deal with "educational" topics, some projects deal with Tribal history, recognition of our Tribal Elders and Chitimacha Tribal promotion activities.

I want to urge you to stop by to visit with us on June 8, 1996. Please come share in our "Celebration of Education!" By sharing our successes, our failures and our experiences, we hope to assist others in their efforts to reach their goals. It is our goal to, " GIVE IT AWAY".

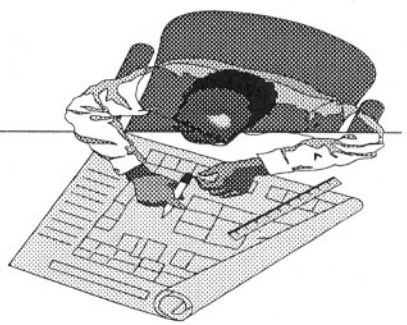
R E M E M B E R ! ! !

" It is important to continue the education of the Tribe
as a whole when you continue education for yourself."

BY: SARAH RICHARD,
CHITIMACHA TRIBAL MEMBER
ATTENDING TEXAS A&M
STUDYING BIOLOGY

Chitimacha Development Corporation

PLANNING



By: Brian J. Headley

I returned from Jackson Mississippi on Tuesday, 07 May 1996 after viewing the Digital Overlays for the Tribal Geographic Information System (G.I.S.). These Overlays are very impressive and are loaded with valuable development information. There is still some very important G.I.S. design criteria that must be solved. The most important of these decisions is the way in which the database will communicate with the Terrain modeling. The two most popular choices for database design are INFORMIX and ORACLE. These database designs store information differently and both have their pros and cons. Once the database design is selected it will be the responsibility of CDC, with cooperation from various Tribal departments such as Planning, Public Works and Police, to create a database of information that will work in conjunction with the G.I.S. This database will contain all the text and photographic information for the system.

The area that has been digitized consists of nineteen maps and it covers the area from U.S. Highway 90 to just North of the Reservation boundaries. Some of these maps had to be produced in metric as well as English (standard) for use by Indian Health Service. If you would like to see a preliminary map (overlay) of this project, please come by my office at the Multi-Purpose building and just ask for Brian Headley.

Charenton/Chitimacha Volunteer Fire Department

By: Chief Sherel Sinitiere

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Big things are in the works for the Charenton/Chitimacha Volunteer Fire Department. Currently we have retained an outside consultant to aid us in our upcoming insurance rating evaluation. We are rated every few years by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana. This independent rating commission evaluates the operational efficiency of each fire department in Louisiana. Fire departments are graded on a scale from one to ten. Fire insurance rates for home and business owners are determined by this scale. Currently, the reservation is a Class V, Charenton a Class VI and the outlying areas are a Class VII. We feel very confident that we can substantially reduce all the areas we serve within the next year. More to come as we get closer.

Charenton/Chitimacha Volunteer Fire Department is comprised of 21 active members from our community. We respond to fires, hazardous materials incidents, auto accidents and emergency medical calls. Last year we were called 217 times to render aid. All of our plans to improve services and lower insurance costs will benefit everyone. However, we do need help. We would like to add ten more members to our department. The pay is not all that great, but the benefits are numerous. Free training, insurance, firefighting gear, medical supplies, uniforms and a great feeling when you help some one in need. If you are interested, please contact any firefighter or stop by the Fire Station for an application. Our meetings are on the first and fourth Thursday of every month.

As everyone knows, April was a bad month for our water system. On April 14, the water supply for the immediate area was lost for eight days due to an accident. Once the Fire Department was notified, we immediately contacted our neighboring departments to inform them of the situation. If needed, extra tankers would be sent to our area if a fire occurred. Fortunately, we did not experience any fires during the time we were without water. However, fire department members were very instrumental in aiding the Casino. Over 75% of our active members donated a total of 478 man hours of their time to haul water and keep the pumps running at the Casino. Recently, we were honored with a party for our efforts. Thanks goes out to the Casino staff for their recognition of the help received by us from the Baldwin and Four Corners Volunteer Fire Department.

Each year over 8,000 people in the United States die in house fires. The National Fire Protection Association has estimated that nearly 90% of those deaths could have been prevented had there been an operable smoke detector present. Do you have a smoke detector? Does it work? When was the last time you checked the batteries? Smoke detectors should be installed on each floor of your home and checked once a month. Additional information is available at the Tribal Council Office and the fire station.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Baseball and Softball News

This year marks a major increase in the amount of participation by Tribal Youth in the Baldwin and Jeanerette Baseball and Softball Programs. Currently we have youth that are participating at every age group. Most of the youth participate in the Baldwin Program and we encourage Tribal Members to come and support the young people.

Little League Boys Team News

The 1996 Chitimacha Braves are living up to preseason expectations. As of May 29, 1996 the team stands tied for second place with a record of 4 wins and 3 loses. Two of those three loses were by one run. The team has five games remaining and looks to be in good shape for a run at the top.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

Tues. May 28th - 7:30 pm
Thurs. May 29th - 6:00 pm
Mon. June 3rd - 6:00 pm
Tues. June 4th - 7:30 pm
Mon. June 10th - 7:30 pm
Tues. June 11th - 7:30 pm

Come out and watch some very competitive and exciting ball games. We appreciate all of the support the Tribe has given us and hope to continue to make everyone proud of the Chitimacha Braves.

ELECTION NOTICE

Absentee voting has started Monday, May 27th at 8:00 AM. You may vote absentee up through election day. To do so during regular tribal office hours *[Mon - Thur. 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM and Fri. 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM]*, please contact Bethany at the Senior/Youth Center at 923-4114. After regular office hours and on weekends, contact Pat Vilcan at 923-7352.

Election will be held on June 8th from 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM at the Chitimacha Senior/Youth Center.

List of Candidates

Secretary-Treasurer
One (1) to be elected

Peggy Gaddy
Jimmy B. Rogers
Charles H. Thomas

Councilperson
Two (2) to be elected

Adrian "Joey" J. Bernard
Lon W. Burgess
Anthony "Tony" R. Darden
John Paul Darden, Sr.
Joy V. Johnson
Lonnie Lou Martin

School Board Member
Three (3) to be elected

Shelby Bernard
Clifford Burgess
Jack A. Darden
Earlene Thomas

(Education Highlights continued from Page 1)

CHITIMACHA COLLEGE GRADUATES: It is also a great pleasure to present the following names of college graduates this year who were participants in the Chitimacha Scholarship Program:

Shawn Burgess
Bethany Eddlemon Darby
Michael Vilcan
Chris Mora
Charmagne Stechmann

We are very proud of these students' accomplishments and wish for them the **BEST OF LUCK** in their future endeavors!

CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!

On Appreciation Day, Sunday, June 9, 1996, the Tribe plans to recognize our G.E.D graduates and our college graduates. Join us in congratulating them!

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS' PROJECT DAY is fast approaching and promises to be very interesting and enlightening! It is planned for Election Day, Saturday, June 8, 1996. Plan to visit the students' booths for varied and interesting information regarding their studies and/or their research, etc. Hope to see you there! More information can be found in Ardith Soprano's article in the Newsletter.

Chitimacha Tribal School Graduates:
The end of another school year is here. A wonderful graduation ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 15, 1996. Howard Rainer, an outstanding guest speaker, presented a motivating talk to our graduates and parents. He also worked with parents and teachers earlier in the school day, and with the Tribal Council, School Board, and Directors the previous day. It was wonderful to have a person of such vision and high standards help us to all focus on education as a priority for now and for the future!

We are also extremely proud of the Chitimacha Tribal School Graduates who are listed below:

Preschool
Derek Brown
Magdeline Darden
Chay Hebert
Cierra Johnson
Lindsey Martin
William Martin
Philbert Schexnayder

Kindergarten
Allison Burgess
Dane Ladnier
Ray Leedom
Hannah Lagarde
Lauren Persilver

Eighth Grade***
Jared Anslum
Ashley Burgess
Chance Burgess
April Cook
Joline Dwyer
Zachary LeBlanc
Jonathan Marcotte
Justin Magee
Bridget Toups
Natalie Vilcan

CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Remember, Graduates, that we are here for you. Let us know if we can be of service to you as you venture forth into new and challenging paths.

****Editor's Note - These eighth grade graduates are the future graduates of the year 2,000!!!***

SUMMER FIELD TRIP

WHO? 5th-8th graders of the Chitimacha Tribal School

WHERE? Federal District Court, Lafayette, Louisiana at the invitation of Federal District Court Judge Rebeccah Douherty

WHEN? Thursday, June 6, 1996...Leaving the Chitimacha Tribal School at 7:45 a. m. and returning at approximately 3:00 p.m. (Lunch will be provided at Burger King in Lafayette).

WHY? To observe District Court in progress, to meet with Judge Douherty, to visit and meet the Marshal and Bailiff of the Court.

Please contact Lois Rider (923-7000) or Diane Hearn (923-4973) if you need more information about the field trip.

Thought for Today

"Sometimes, we forget that we can ask for help. Believe me, asking for help is NOT a sign of weakness in today's world."

G E N T L E R E M I N D E R S
(or space fillers)

Appointments

If you require transportation to medical appointments, please notify the Health Department of the appointment in advance. Appointments should be made no later than 3:00 p.m. for longer distances. No transportation will be available on Fridays, so, DO NOT schedule appointments for Fridays.

Personal Insurance

Clients with personal insurance must keep the Health Department informed of changes in insurance coverage. Remember to bring your insurance explanation of benefits to the CMC office. We need a copy to determine the balance owed on your medical bills.

Medical Bills/Statements

Some medical bills are not sent to the Health Department by the provider. They are billed directly to your residence. It is your responsibility to bring those bills to the Health Department. For example, when you have an x-ray done at the hospital, you will receive another bill for the radiology fees. You must bring those in as soon as you receive them.

Medicaid Clients

The Health Department requires a copy of your Medicaid card each month. Bring in any correspondence you receive from the Office of Family Support concerning your Medicaid case. We need a copy of that also.

Notification

You must notify the Health Department office of all visits to a physician, hospital, dentist or other provider. Report visits to the Health Department at 923-9955 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday thru Thursday and 7:30 a.m. thru 11:30 a.m. on Friday. Ask for Madeline or Mildred.

Non-Emergency Care: you are required to pick up a form at the Health Department to bring with you to the doctor, hospital or other.

Emergency Care

If you have an emergency on the weekend or when the Health Department office is closed, you are required to notify the Health Department within 72 hours. Additional time is allowed if office is closed because of a holiday. In that case, you must call the earliest working day. Emergency visits must be reported to the Health Department office during regular working hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have previously received **theCHITIMACHA NEWS*LETTER***, are no longer receiving it and would again like a monthly copy, you may want to call the Tribal Office at (318) 923-4973 and give your current address so that we may send you a copy.

A **current address** is also very important in order to keep your file updated for a timely submittal of the **annual per capita payments.** The Phone number is the same for both.

THANK YOU!!!

Just Call!!!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

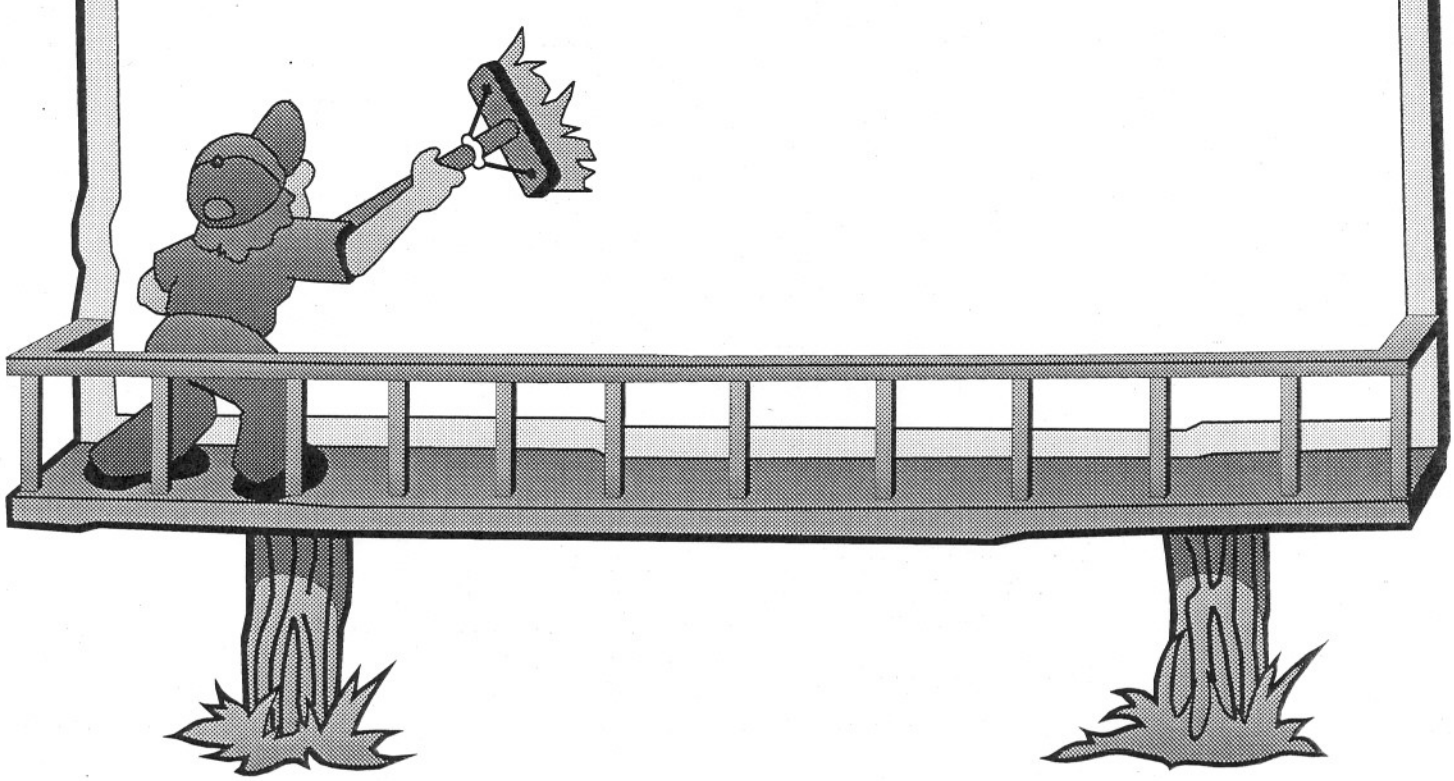
Call Debbie @ 318 923-4973 to place an Ad

We, the Allen Bernard family, would like to express our heartfelt thank you to all who assisted us in our time of sorrow.

The Chitimacha Trading Post, Joy Johnson and Pam Thibodeaux, for the excellent chicken salad sandwiches, the Public Works Dept., Tony Darden and his helpers, O'Neil Darden, Jr., and Gerald Ecuer, for their assistance at the Church and Mausoleum and the Cypress Bayou Casino, Ralph Darden, Chairman, for the excellent food that was served after the funeral services. Also, thanks to all of you who sent flowers.

Sincerely,

The Allen Bernard Family



Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 661
Charenton LA 70523